Foreign Policy Analysis
2016 Annual Editorial Report

Editor-in-Chief:
Cameron G. Thies
Arizona State University, USA

Editorial Assistant:
Holly Williamson
Arizona State University, USA

Replication Analyst:
Seyedbabak Rezaeedaryakenari
Arizona State University, USA

Associate Editors:
Klaus Brummer
Katholische Universität Eichstätt, Germany

Juliet Kaarbo
University of Edinburgh, UK

Brian Lai
University of Iowa, USA

Deborah Welch Larson
UCLA, USA

Arlene B. Tickner
Universidad del Rosario, Colombia

Executive Summary

January 1, 2016 marked the official transfer of editorial operations from Cooper Drury's editorial team based at the University of Missouri to our own based at Arizona State University. The ASU team had begun handling new submissions starting on October 1, 2015. This report covers the 2016 calendar year. Our main area of concern is resolving the backlog of accepted manuscripts from the previous editorial team. We also report on the newly implemented replication policy for the journal, as well as our efforts to publicize the journal on social media.

Backlog

When the ASU editorial team assumed the editorship of the journal, we inherited a nearly four-year backlog of accepted manuscripts. Fortunately, the ISA Executive Director worked with our Oxford University Press partners to broker a deal to clear a large portion of the backlog. Our page allocation was doubled to 250 pages for six issues beginning with the last two issues of 2016: 12(3) and 12(4). The four issues of volume 13 will also be budgeted at 250 pages each. These six double-issues will allow us to clear three years of backlog by the end of 2017.

While this resolves our backlog issue, it may exacerbate driving down the impact factor of the journal. The 2015 impact factor dropped to .477. Our approach to mitigating this potential problem stemming from the double issues is to group them in themes to try to drive citations to them. For example, 12(3) is a collection of papers on "Understanding Foreign Policy in the Middle East," 12(4) is entitled "Foreign Policy, Security, and Conflict," and 13(1) will be on

"Foreign Policy and Economic Statecraft." We also engage authors to write an OUP blog post reflecting on articles in these issues and we tweet about them as described below.

Manuscript Flow

As of December 30, 2016, we have received 181 original submissions. In addition to this, we received two proposals for special issues. This represents a slight decline from the 187 original submissions and four special issue proposals received in calendar year 2015. Given the many variables (transition to a new team, public knowledge of the backlog, etc.), it is difficult to make any strong claims about changes in the number of submissions.

Our acceptance rate was 9.8% (18 manuscripts), which is a reduction from the previous calendar year (16.2%). It is a little lower than would be needed to fill four normal issues, but we must keep in mind that we are still adding to the backlog with these acceptances. The desk rejection rate was 21.5% (39 manuscripts), which is approximately the same as last year (21.9%). Most manuscripts receiving desk rejects are for fit with the journal, exceptional sloppiness in presentation/style/formatting, or originality problems that are not readily resolvable.

Turn Around Time

Our turn around time for original submissions is 58 days, excluding desk rejects. This is much lower than last calendar year's average of 69 days. We aim to bring this down a bit in the coming year.

Author Participation, Sex and Geography

Solo-authorship predominates in our original submissions this year with a total of 118 solo-authored papers (65%).

In terms of the sex breakdown of original submissions, 55 submissions included at least one woman (30%).

We had original submissions from 43 countries, including Armenia, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, China, Colombia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, South Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, and Uzbekistan. The largest proportions were from the United States (42%), United Kingdom (6%), Iran (4.5%), Australia (4%), Turkey (4%), Canada (3%), and Israel (3%).

Replication

All submissions received starting January 1, 2016, are subject to FPA's new replication policy. The policy is described here: **FPA Replication Policy**. Seyedbabak Rezaeedaryakenari serves as the Replication Analyst for FPA. We created the workflow process for replication and worked with the ScholarOne contacts to implement it in the software submission system.

Babak created our Harvard Dataverse site at https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataverse/FPA. He initially uploaded any data collected by the previous editorial team and makes sure that all of the quantitative papers we are accepting have their data properly uploaded as well. There are currently 72 datasets archived on this site.

Since our replication policy went into effect, we have had 10 articles undergo replication. Babak has created an ACCESS database to manage and document the replication process and generate reports for authors, the replication analyst, and editor-in-chief.

Generally, the replication process has gone relatively smoothly. In most cases, the replication analyst has found some inconsistencies between reported and replicated results that are then clarified in the final manuscript. This is consistent with my experiences implementing a replication process at another journal.

Web and Social Media

OUP is migrating our website from http://fpa.oxfordjournals.org/ to https://academic.oup.com/fpa. The new website allows us to highlight the articles in FPA, as well as connect to our twitter feed, our virtual issues, and a wide variety of other new features.

We have created a virtual issue entitled "Advice to the Incoming Administration: How Outside Actors Affect Civil Conflict, Coups, and Regime Changes," which can be found on the new website at https://academic.oup.com/fpa/pages/advice_to_incoming_admin_virtual_issue. Our goal with the virtual issues is to drive citations to previously published articles that will become part of the calculation for the next impact factor.

Associate Editor Brian Lai has taken the lead for the editorial team on our social media activities. He has established the first ever Twitter account for FPA. Follow us @FPA_Jrnl. We currently have 719 followers and are working to get more. Brian tweets about our thematic issues, OUP blog posts, and individual articles that we think are timely to a current foreign policy issue.

Brian has also engaged authors to write three blog posts thus far on the OUP blog. Our first post was on strategic narratives http://blog.oup.com/2016/07/foreign-policy-reading-list/ by Beatrice de Graaf and George Dimitriu, the second is on the Middle East http://blog.oup.com/2016/09/identity-foreign-policy-post-arab-uprising-middle-east/ by

Raymond Hinnebusch, and the final one is on conflict and foreign policy http://blog.oup.com/2016/12/unbalancing-power-military-war/ by Scott Wolford.